THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission provides financial assistance (development grants) to such colleges that are included under Section 2(f) and declared fit to receive Central assistance under Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956 as per approved pattern of assistance under various schemes. The pattern of assistance is uniform and bases on parameters laid down by the Commission from time to time. Universities/Colleges located in educationally backward areas and young universities are given special development grants by the Commission.

(c) to (e) As public institutions like colleges are maintained by the State Governments, no list of such public institutions is maintained Centrally.

Job-oriented education system

†1421. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to give importance to job oriented education system, in view of the need to bring changes in the present education system, as per the need of the hour;

(b) if so, what kind of change Government is contemplating to bring in the present education system, alongwith the outlines thereof and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government has accorded importance to job-oriented system of education. While elaborating on essence and role of Education, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) has recognized that Education develops manpower for different levels of the economy. The NPE 1986 also envisages the introduction of systematic, well-planned and rigorously implemented programmes of vocational education. These elements are meant to develop a healthy attitude amongst students towards work and life, to enhance individual employability, to reduce the mis-match between the demand and supply of skilled manpower, and to provide an alternative for those intending to pursue higher education without particular interest or purpose. The policy envisages that efforts will be made to provide children at the higher secondary level with generic vocational courses which cut across several occupational fields and which are not occupation specific.

The National Policy on Education also envisages the delinking of degrees from jobs in selected areas. Delinking is to be applied in services for which a university degree need not be a necessary qualification.

However, Government is not in favour of excessive emphasis on skills, employment, corporate and job-oriented education at the cost of Basic Sciences and Humanities which is fundamental to our all round development, material and spiritual.

Right to Education Bill

1422. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI P.R. RAJAN:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Right to Education Bill which was introduced long back has not been passed, so far;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for the delay;

(c) whether any objections have been raised by various parties; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision for passing the Bill in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2008, to put into effect the Fundamental Right to free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years has not yet been introduced in the Parliament.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

New institutes for higher education

†1423. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an approval to-start new institutes to impart higher technical education in the country is pending with the All India Council for Technical Education for consideration;

(b) if so, the total number of institutes from which applications were received for consideration till September, 2008;

(c) the number of institutes to which approval was given by the Council in the year 2006 and 2007; and

(d) by when the applications, presently under consideration, are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As per information furnished by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), 1970 applications have been received by AICTE for establishment of new technical institutions for the block period 2008-11. Out of these, 1206 institutions have been approved up to 31.08.2008. The applications for approval are received round the year. Applications received by 31st December in a particular year are disposed off by 30th June of the subsequent year. Applications received after 31st December are disposed of in the next academic year as and when the requisite norms are met. 336 new institutions were given approval for the year 2006-2007 and 635 new institutions were given approval for the year 2007-2008.

Reservation in private educational institutions

1424. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering reservation for OBCs in private educational institutions;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.